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Item 105 of the preliminary list*

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 3 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 12 March 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Ung Huot, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, regarding the clarification of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the inclusion of Cambodia by President Bill Clinton of the United States of America in the United States list of major illicit drug producing and transit countries.

I should be deeply grateful if the said attached letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 105 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 12 March 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following facts:

The Royal Government of Cambodia was taken by surprise and could not overcome its deep concern when President B. Clinton added Cambodia to the United States State Department's list of major illicit drug producing and drug transit countries on 23 February 1996.

In this regard, I wish to bring to your consideration the following clarifications:

1. Cambodia is neither a drug producer, nor a consumer, nor a trafficker country. It may be on a transit route, but Cambodia is a victim of this illegal traffic.

2. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been working hard to fight against drug transit through its territory despite its limited human and material resources. Cambodia has strengthened its counter-narcotics efforts and has fully cooperated with other countries, including the United States, and has taken adequate steps on its own to meet the stated narcotics goals and objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. New regulations with severe punishments have been adopted. Newly formed and undertrained drug enforcement units, to their credit, have already made large seizures of heroin. They should be congratulated and encouraged, instead of using the seizures to give credit to allegations that the Government was involved in the traffic.

3. The problems of drug trafficking are of international and regional proportions and need international coordination. Countries like Cambodia need international support to meet the challenge. Consumer countries with plenty of means at their disposal should take adequate and serious domestic measures to reduce the level of drug consumption.

4. The Royal Government of Cambodia is very displeased and disappointed by its inclusion in the United States list of major illicit drug producing and drug transit countries. This act adversely affects Cambodia's international image and prestige, even though it was later certified and made clear that it had fully cooperated with the international community on this matter.

I should be most grateful to have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) UNG Huot